

4

INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR, INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN  
INFORMATION ORGANIZATION, AND CONSULTANTS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1950,  
IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

PRESENT: Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director  
Mr. Oechsner, Acting Executive Secretary  
Mr. Phillips  
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens  
Central Intelligence Agency - [redacted] 25X1A

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The minutes of the previous meeting were returned for certain revisions by the Executive Secretary.

Prior to moving to the agenda, the Director informed Admiral Steven that Mr. Brad Connors would be the State Department representative to go to Tokyo with Lt. Col. Young, the Army representative, to discuss PW matters in Tokyo and Korea.

With reference to Brookings Institution inquiry about the functioning of the National Psychological Strategy Board, introduced at the meeting of August 21, and the possible downgrading of NSC 59/1 to CONFIDENTIAL, Admiral Stevens stated that he had "edited" NSC 59/1 so that it might be suitable for answering questions up to and including CONFIDENTIAL classification. It was agreed that the Executive Secretary would use this version in answering Brookings' questions, and that application would not be made for the downgrading of NSC 59/1 at this time.

Item I of the agenda, IFIS' report No. 5 to the Director on the broad functions of an interdepartmental board, was thoroughly discussed. The report was approved as a basis for further work by IFIS, with the understanding that any organizational provisions made would conform with NSC 74 as finally approved. In the course of the discussion on Item I, Admiral Stevens stressed the importance of centralizing files and data on matters of personnel, facilities, intelligence and research projects, and stated that if IFIS were to undertake this for an interdepartmental board, it probably would not be necessary to set up such files in individual departments. It was agreed that this matter should be pursued with individual departments to ascertain whether centralized files were feasible and desirable.

Item II on the agenda, the "Carroll paper on Foreign Information Policy Objectives in a Transition Period" was extensively discussed. Admiral Stevens noted that he had already made comprehensive comment in writing. It was agreed to place this Item on the agenda of the next meeting again, Mr. Phillips in the meanwhile to secure copy of Admiral Stevens' written comment.

Item III on the agenda, IFIS' report No. 8 on Balloons was placed on the agenda for the next meeting, inasmuch as requested comment from EUR on the possible use of balloons in satellite areas and covertly had not yet been received.

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2

The Director referred ad hoc to the matter of staff functions in support of IFIO, stated that it was a complicated matter to deal with but that State's main thinking at this time tended toward a combination of staffs (particularly POL and IFIS) with two small "nuclei" for (a) day-to-day political guidance and (b) continuing planning under NSC 74 and related fields, the remaining staff to be a pool of manpower available for general planning purposes. In response to the Director's question, it was agreed among those present that this appeared a practical and an effective approach to the problem, Admiral Stevens pointing out that it was necessary to give IFIS some planning work.

The Director expressed his feeling that the Board was not able to do much "strategy" planning under its present workload, the meetings being devoted more to questions of organization and immediate problems, and suggested that an evening meeting be held for more general long-range problems. This was agreed to.